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wishing to continue the species, which was founded on a single tree, caused acorns from it to be planted in different places, from which two living trees are now known; one at the Bartram garden mentioned in a former paper, and the other in the old Marshall garden.

The Hoopes tree is about 15 feet high and 2–3 inches in diameter, and its leaves have a striking resemblance to Michaux's figure of the Bartram Oak. This may be caused in part from a tendency in many young oak trees to have lobed leaves, often quite different from those of mature trees of the same species. This is well known to many observers. Mr. T. Meehan, of Germantown, has specimens similar to *Q. heterophylla*, from Townsend, in New Castle County, Delaware, collected from the young shoots growing around a stump, surrounded by living willow oaks, of which it had every appearance of having been one.

The following is an extract from a letter lately received from Mr. Hoopes:

"There is a Bartram Oak in the garden at Marshallton, with foliage corresponding to the figure in Michaux, yielding acorns, which produce trees having foliage true to the original."

Dr. Darlington lately told me what amounts to the same as that just quoted from Mr. Hoopes. Should these trees maintain their present distinctive characters, and continue to produce trees of the same sort, it will be an example of the formation of a new species from a form of an old one; nor is it by any means improbable that the Bartram Oak may become distinct from its parent, the willow oak. It is believed by some botanists that new species have been formed, and are now being made from varieties of old species; but human life is so short that we cannot perceive the long gradual changes necessary for this creative process. These Bartram Oaks should be carefully preserved and propagated, that future generations may see whether a good species of *Quercus heterophylla* has been thus created.

It is singular that acorns from the original Bartram Oak should yield trees of such different foliage as the one at the old Bartram garden, and that at Marshallton. The oak in the Bartram place shows a tendency to breed back to the original stock of the willow oak, while the one at Marshallton seems to keep most of the characters of its immediate parent, the Bartram Oak. In confirmation of this I have just received the following note from Mr. Meehan in reference to some Bartram Oaks now being raised by Mr. Buist.

"Mr. Buist says his seedlings from the Bartram Oak all approach the willow oak, but none quite like, all having a few lobed leaves. His seed was gathered by himself from the tree in the Bartram garden which I pointed out to you."

T. MEEHAN."

These seedlings as they acquire age will probably be much more like the willow oak than at present, young trees often having foliage different from mature trees, as before stated.

March 4th.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty-eight members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

Synopsis of the Cirrhitids; On the limits and arrangement of the Scomberoids; Descriptions of new species of Alepidosauridæ; and on a new species of Priacanthus. By Theodore Gill.

On a tropical Isopod found near the shores of Massachusetts, by Wm. Stimpson.

1862.]

Mr. Norris remarked that Dr. Hayes' Arctic collection contained a specimen of the common brook trout, (*Salmo fontinalis*), taken near Godhaven, Greenland; and specimens of the salmon trout, (*Salmo trutta*), common to the coasts of Scotland and new Brunswick, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

March 11th.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Thirty-two members present.

Mr. Warner made some remarks on the imitation of the section of eggs by mathematical lines.

Dr. Corse exhibited, under the microscope, specimens of Nitella, showing the circulation within the nucule.

Dr. Carson exhibited specimens of metallic copper, deposited by voltaic action in the felt of the sunken frigates at Sevastopol.

March 18th.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

On the West African genus *Hemichromus*, etc., by Theo. Gill.

Catalogue of the Fishes of Lower California, etc., by Theo. Gill.

On some new and little known American Anura, by E. D. Cope.

March 25th.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

On report of the respective Committees, the following papers were ordered to be published in the Proceedings:

Synopsis of the Family of CIRRHITIDS.

BY THEODORE GILL.

Family CIRRHITOIDÆ Gray.

Synonymy.

Percoidei pt. } *Cuvier, Müller, &c.*

Sciænoidei pt. }

Cirrhitidæ *Gray*, Synopsis of the contents of the British Museum.

" *Richardson.*

Theraponidæ pt. } *Richardson.*

Polynemidæ pt. }

Cirrhitoidei *Bleeker*, Acta Societatis Scientiarum Indo-Nederlandicæ, vol. ii.,
Vischsoorten von Amboina.

Cirrhitidæ *Günther*, Catalogue of the Acanthopterygian Fishes, &c., vol. ii.,
p. 70.

Sparidæ (Haplodactylina) *Günther*, op. cit., vol. i., p. 434.

The body is oblong and compressed, with the dorsal and abdominal outlines
[March,